

arose from the disturbed state of the nation—not from the comparative essay of free trade. After several attempts to regulate unlimited competition in the butchers' trade, they returned to the close corporate system of former times; and at the present day the number of butchers in Paris is limited to 501, to be further reduced, I think, to 460, on the decrease of the present possessors of the privilege. One object proposed to be gained by the limitation, namely, to do away with the small butchers, who do not buy at Poissy and Soaux, has certainly not been attained. There are, in fact, 214 regular butchers who attend the markets and buy the cattle for their own consumption, and 74 carcass butchers, who sell in detail to the 213 small traders.

**The Abattoirs.**—As was before stated, the cattle purchased on the markets are directly led into sheds, which are destined to receive the animals intended for the five abattoirs of Paris. These abattoirs are situated, three to the north, and two to the south of the Seine, those on the northern side being also the largest. They are situated in the quarters of Montmartre, Menil Montant, and Roulle; those to the south are in the quarters of Villejuif and Grenelle. The private slaughter-houses for pigs are in *les Rues de Carreau present, St. Jean Baptiste (near la Rue Papinier), and la Rue des Vieilles Tuileries*. There is a large abattoir at Nanterre for the same purpose, which was built by a company, and in which nearly half the pigs killed for the Paris market are prepared. The city of Paris also has begun the construction of a pig abattoir in *la Rue du Château, London*.

The general plan of the abattoirs for cattle may be described as consisting of a large open court, in which the animals are separated, so as to place them in the layers reserved for each particular butcher. At the entrance to the courts are placed the offices of the different employees of the establishment. On both sides are the slaughter-houses, which again are surrounded on their other three sides by the cattle layers. The fat-melting places, and those destined for the preparation of the tripe, and the first preparations of the offal, are at the extreme end of most of the Paris abattoirs.

The layers are never of a less superficial content than the slaughter-houses; they are usually 45 metres long, by 9 metres wide in the clear; about 147 feet 8 inches by 29 feet 7 inches nearly, and by 14 feet 10 inches in clear of ceiling. They are made with a floor over, to receive the hay and fodder necessary for the cattle and sheep. The former are fastened to rings let into the walls, and are allowed 3 feet 4 inches frontage nearly; the latter are inclosed in pens fitted up with mangers; water-troughs are sometimes furnished to both; at others the animals are led to the watering-places in the court-yards. Each layer is calculated to hold 50 cattle and 400 sheep.

The passages between the layers and the slaughter-houses are 33 feet 4 inches wide. The slaughter-houses are in groups (two and two), with a court between, also 33 feet 4 inches wide. Each block is of the dimension given above for the layers, 147 feet 8 inches, by 29 feet 7 inches, adding, of course, the thickness of the external walls. They contain eight divisions, about 15 feet 8 inches wide, by 29 feet 7 inches long, for the purpose of slaughtering; the centre, or ninth division, is reserved for a staircase, affording access to a story which was at first deemed necessary for the purpose of drying the skins and the fat. In the abattoirs built of late, this upper story is not executed, for it is found to be useless; but the court between the two blocks is roofed over, which is not the case in the Paris abattoirs. This trifling change has rendered the working of the abattoirs much more satisfactory; it has been adopted at Nantes and at Caen with perfect success. The separate divisions of the abattoirs are divided from one another by walls, 8 inches thick, of very hard stone, to facilitate the cleansing. At a height of 8 feet 4 inches two beams are let into the wall, to which the animals are suspended for the purpose of being cut up; hooks are let into the wall to receive the different portions; a crane is fixed to hoist the carcasses; a large water-cock is also placed so as to enable the assistants thoroughly to cleanse the paving. Rings are let into the floor to

fasten the animals; the paving is laid with a fall, to collect the blood, great care being taken to bed the pavement upon a very thick coat of concrete, to prevent the ravages of the rats. A circulation of air is maintained by means of open gratings over the doors, and over the upper parts of the partitions. Places to receive the excrements are furnished as near the slaughter-houses as possible; and large sewers are laid down throughout the establishments.

Stables and coach-houses are provided for the butchers. A large pump, worked either by a steam-engine, or by horse-power, is erected in each abattoir, with reservoirs to contain a considerable supply of water. The importance of this branch of the service may be estimated from the fact that every animal that is killed gives rise to a consumption of about one-fifth of a ton of water if the slaughter-house be properly cleaned after each operation. The town of Paris contracted for a quantity of 97,350 tons per annum for the five abattoirs; but it is not considered more than half what is really required.

The tallow-melting shops are, in the principal of these establishments, 11m. 80c. by 8m. each (38 ft. 3 in. by 26 ft. 3 in.). The coppers are made to hold from 800 to 2,000 kilogs. at each boiling; this is generally effected by an open fire, though of late steam has been employed. The odour arising from the fat melting is one of the worst evils of the abattoirs; and we would do well not to allow its being carried on in the interior of London. The triperies are placed near the tallow-melting shops (*les fondoirs*) and are of very considerable dimensions.

The commercial results of the abattoirs, in whatever light we examine them, have been eminently successful. They facilitate the inspection of the cattle to be slaughtered; indeed there is a Government agent in each, who is specially charged to prevent diseased animals from being converted into food for human beings. The cattle are lodged in airy, comfortable quarters, and are allowed to repose from the fatigues of the road. The butchers find very considerable advantage in having their meat thus slaughtered in the best hygienic conditions; for it is less likely to turn, and keeps much longer. There is a certain waste of labour; for the men employed in the slaughter-houses would, if that operation were carried on in the town, be employed during their spare time at other works. But the tendency to create a set of wholesale dealers appears to obviate this objection. The small butchers, who purchase of them, exonerate themselves from a very heavy charge, and, at the same time, the men employed in slaughtering are, by the concentration of this part of the business, more equally employed. The Paris butchers fully recognise the advantages of the institution, though at first they vigorously opposed its introduction.\* G. R. B.

#### THE MOVEMENT AGAINST CHURCH RESTORATION.

There appears to be on the part of some writers an architecture a desire to produce a reactionary movement against church restoration, to which we owe the preservation of so many fine examples of mediæval architecture, rescued from the hands of the parish builder and an annual coating of whitewash. In perusing a recent treatise (misnamed) on Cottage Architecture, I was struck by an unmeaning tirade against architectural restoration. The writer gives an instance of an addition which has not been made in harmony with the general character of the building; but I do not exactly comprehend how one or two such instances justify a general censure of church restoration: the blame should rather rest with the architect for an inappropriateness of design, rather than with the object of the design itself. But I suppose, aware of the weakness of his cause, he summons to his assistance a definition from the "Seven Lamps." Hear Mr. Ruskin's opinion of the true meaning of the word restoration—"It means the most total destruction which a building can suffer; a destruction out of which no remnant can be gathered,—a destruction accompanied with a false description of the thing restored."

Now, how does this definition apply in the case of a church built between A.D. 1307

and A.D. 1380, a tolerably perfect specimen of the Decorated, which subsequently, in the lapse of time between James I. and the present era, is deprived of its ancient woodwork and a debased Italian substituted in its stead, those remnants of its former beauty which are suffered to remain on the score of utility being probably whitewashed, or grained in imitation of oak, in place of the rich hue the wood itself had acquired,—a flat ceiling of lath and plaster substituted for the beautiful groined roof, and a host of other absurdities perpetrated too numerous and ridiculous to mention? We, in this age of barbarism, cannot appreciate such beauties, and would rather have jaws in character with the building and the oak itself than the grained imitation, and the groined roof than the plaster ceiling; consequently they are removed, and a restoration made in character with the original building: such, I take it, is the genuine meaning of the word restoration.

As regards the sweeping process practised at Westminster Abbey and elsewhere, of which he so bitterly complains, I cannot pretend to such an affection for cobwebs as he seems to possess.

The north porch of St. Mary Redcliffe, the restoration of which to its pristine beauty seems to affect him so deeply, was, previous to its restoration, in so decayed and weather-worn a state as to be illegible,—corbel heads, cusps, spandrels, and tracery had all absolutely fallen to pieces. A small portion only has been removed,—(it is not a thing done as he erroneously thinks, and flippantly remarks on), and if he had seen how it is done, which he evidently has not, he might have avoided an erroneous paragraph, which throws doubt on the correctness of the whole treatise.

Who will refuse thanks to those who desire to rescue from complete destruction a beautiful monument for posterity, instead of leaving it to fall to dust from a morbid love of picturesque ruins?

J. THOMAS.

#### THE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

The prizes were distributed to the students on the 16th by the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., who presided. Lord Granville supported the chairman, and Mr. Redgrave, one of the head-masters, made some observations. The report, read by Mr. Deverell, the secretary, showed that the average number of students, male and female, in each month in 1848-49, was 363; while for the last nine months of the current financial year to the 31st December, 1849, the average had amounted to 423; thus exceeding the attendance in the preceding year by 40 to each month. The sums distributed in prizes amounted in the whole to about 260l. Amongst the successful students were Miss Alice West (most justly so), Miss Louise Gann, Miss Charity Palmer, Miss Eliza Mills, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Butler, Mr. Portch, Mr. Griesbach, Mr. Maye, Mr. Brown, sen., Mr. Bell, Mr. Slocumb (for a design for a stained glass window and a ceiling), Mr. Hodder (for ditto and a panel), Mr. J. George, and Mr. J. B. George.

The exhibition of the students' works is very far superior to any previous collection there, and will well repay a visit. It is understood that it will be open only during (this) Friday and Saturday, but we hope that the time will be extended.

#### WORK AND WORKMEN AT BIRMINGHAM.

—An interesting series of articles is in course of publication in the local *Journal*, on the state of trade and the condition of workmen at Birmingham,—designed, as the writer states, "firstly, to show that under a system of commercial policy which brings our produce into immediate competition with foreign manufactures, trade is active and healthy; and, secondly, to prove the fallacy of the theory that wages have been reduced concurrently with, or in the ratio of, the reduction in the price of the necessities of life." The most important of the fifty or sixty totally distinct staple manufactures of the town and its vicinity are being specially noticed, and the general results arrived at, as remarked, are extremely favourable, and seem to show that a full tide of prosperity is already fairly setting in, in place of the past low ebb of trade depression.

\* To be concluded next week.